

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 241305Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3291

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1687

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GY

SUBJECT: TIME MAGAZINE CONCEDES PAST CIA INTERVENTION IN GUYANA

SUMMARY: THE OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY'S WIDELY-READ DAILY NEWSPAPER, THE "MIRROR," HAS PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE QUOTING "TIME" MAGAZINE'S REPLY TO A LETTER FROM A PPP REPRESENTATIVE IN WHICH THE MAGAZINE ACKNOWLEDGES, IN EFFECT, CIA INTERVENTION AS A "CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR" TO THE FALL OF THE PPP GOVT IN 1964. END SUMMARY.

1. THE OPPOSITION PPP'S DAILY NEWSPAPER, THE "MIRROR", PUBLISHED IN ITS AUGUST 22ND EDITION A REPLY FROM "TIME" TO A LETTER SENT TO THE MAGAZINE'S EDITOR BY THE PERSONAL SECRETARY OF PPP LEADER CHEDDI JAGANM

2. THE SECRETARY'S LETTER STATED, "VERY WIDE OF THE MARK WAS YOUR JUNE 7 COVERAGE WHICH STATED '...AFTER A THREE-YEAR BOYCOTT, THE OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY, LED BY DEDICATED MARXIST CHEDDI JAGAN, AGREED TO TAKE ITS SEATS IN PARLIAMENT. THE RETURN OF THE OPPOSITION DID NOT MEAN THAT JAGAN, WHO MISRULED GUYANA INTO ECONOMIC CHAOS DURING THE EARLY 1960'S HAD MELLOWED...'

"A LITTLE RESEARCH WILL SHOW NOT MISRULE, BUT SUBVERSION AND
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DESTABILIZATION SO COMMON SINCE THEN. AN ARTICLE IN THE NEW YORKER'

OF SEPTEMBER 16, 1974, WHICH WAS REPRODUCED IN THE "TIMES" OF LONDON OF THE SAME DATE UNDER THE FRONT PAGE HEADLINE MAGAZINE SAYS CIA UNDERMINED DR. JAGAN' STATED THAT "THE CIA MOVED INTO GUYANA UNDER A COVER PROVIDED BY THE AFL-CIO, THE AMERICAN TRADE UNION ORGANISATION, AND FINANCED STRIKES AND RIOTS AGAINST DR. JAGAN'S LABOUR PROGRAMME".

3. THE "MIRROR" QUOTES "TIME" AS REPLYING, "THERE IS INDEED BROAD RECOGNITION THAT BOTH THE CIA AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WORKED TO "DESTABILIZE" DR. JAGAN'S GOVT BACK IN THE 1970'S (SIC) AND "TIME" SHOULD THEREFORE HAVE MENTIONED THIS AS A CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR TO THE FALL OF THAT GOVT. WE REGRET THE OMISSION, AND THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO CORRECT THE RECORD".

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT EXPECT A SIGNIFICANT LOCAL REACTION THE "MIRROR" ARTICLE. THE PPP'S CHARGES OF CIA INTERVENTION, ACCEPTED AS TRUE BY MANY GUYANESE, HAVE BEEN PLAYED-UP SO FREQUENTLY THAT THEY HAVE LOST SOME OF THEIR STING. PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, SINCE THE PRESENT GOVT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE BENEFICIARY OF ANY SUCH INTERVENTION, THE GOG-CONTROLLED MEDIA WILL PROBABLY NOT AMPLIFY THE STORY
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